



The Wolfman

Nicholas Pekearo

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Marlowe Higgins has had a hard life. Since being dishonorably discharged after a tour in Vietnam, he's been in and out of prison, moving from town to town, going wherever the wind takes him. He can't stay in one place too long--every full moon he kills someone.

Marlowe Higgins is a werewolf. For years he struggled with his affliction, until he found a way to use this unfortunate curse for good--he only kills really bad people.

Settling at last in the small town of Evelyn, Higgins works at a local restaurant and even has a friend, Daniel Pearce, one of Evelyn's two police detectives.

One night everything changes. It turns out Marlowe Higgins isn't the only monster lurking in the area. A fiendish serial killer, known as the Rose Killer, is brutally murdering young girls all around the county. Higgins targets the killer as his next victim, but on the night of the full moon, things go drastically wrong. . . .

The Wolfman Details

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From Reader Review The Wolfman for online ebook

Huda Sarkowi says

Definitely NOT recommended to tween/teenager/young adult fans who read Twilight. This book is grittier, a sort of honest point of view of a man cursed to turn into a wolf every full moon. Sorry girls, no Jacob Black whatsoever here.

I like it, it's a breeze turning from a page to another. Although almost from the start I've already knew or at least predicted who the Rose Killer is, it wasn't a problem to me. The flashback of the wolfman previous life that shaped his cruel destiny is relevant to what he was currently facing. I like how conflicted the wolfman is, it gave some depth to the book that some supernatural book failed to do so. The mysticism wasn't overpowering, the investigation, the gory killings, the emotional downpour of the characters are perfectly balanced.

RIP to Nicholas Pekearo. Such a lose.

Brian Gordon says

This book was interesting. It follows Marlow, short order cook, werewolf, and vigilante. To satiate his inner animal, he finds people he thinks are worthy of death but have escaped justice. The book was ok. It seemed more like a rough draft. There is a minor mystery about a serial killer in town. However you are 90% certain who the killer is because a random stranger has shown up in town just as the killing start. The author died young, so I see this novel as more of the promise of who he could have been rather than a good novel in its own right. It is an okay werewolf novel, but relatively forgettable.

Tarl says

This book came to me from a number of websites that stated that it was one of the best werewolf fictions out there, so I decided to grab it. I was not let down.

Pekearo has crafted a dynamic story laden with interesting characters, haunting situations, and horrific crimes. There are a lot of elements within this novel that work extremely well, so it's going to be hard to nail all of them down here in this review, so I'll just touch on the top ones.

The characters in *The Wolfman* are easily one of the most interesting aspects of this novel. Each one has a depth to them that most authors don't put into their characters these days. The protagonist himself has many different layers and a checkered past that he draws on throughout the story. You can tell Pekearo's law enforcement background within this story by the way he handles police officers and criminals. Each one draws the reader in, and more than once will frustrate you with their actions. Even the werewolf, which is done in the broadest strokes of them all, has a character all its own and remains cloaked in mystery and myth that works extremely well within this story.

Another element that Pekearo does well is dealing with the werewolf curse itself. The laws he sets up for the curse work and work well. The protagonist's dealings with his other side are mysterious yet believable enough that not once did I question its mythological nature in the story. Instead, it remains a tool for the

story and helps to add to the unknown nature of the Rose Killer.

From the diner to the old tree, Pekearo created a living setting for his tale. Each piece of setting is a character unto themselves and he manages to paint a very realistic world for his characters to inhabit. I had no problems imagining what the town was like as the story moved from location to location, each one handled with skilled prose and just the right level of detail.

I will state, however, that Pekearo's storyline is fairly formulaic, with all the right plot points any true horror or thriller fan will recognize. Even the final meeting with the Rose Killer is predictable in its outcome. However, this does not detract away from the story itself, and in fact helps enhance it for the reader as you know what is going to happen and are waiting for it like a ravenous wolf.

In the end, I am extremely sad that Pekearo is no longer among us. I would have loved to have seen where his writing would have evolved to and the world is a poorer place at his loss. *The Wolfman* is easily one of the best books I have read this year and I would recommend it to anyone looking for a good werewolf story.

Rachel Aranda says

The concept was solid but the execution was a wee bit boring for me. This should have been a book I loved, based off of my taste in books, but very early on I just couldn't get into this story. Usually when I give a 2 star rating there is something wrong with the book to make me dislike it, but this book is unique as there isn't really anything wrong with it. I can see many people liking and even loving this book, but I just saw the book as uninteresting. To me, the narration read a bit monotonous and I didn't really care about the main character (in the sense that I didn't really care what happened to him after a while). My interest throughout this book was a straight line that never really changed. There were plenty of moments I thought about DNFing this book but I hoped that I would be surprised by a turn in the story. I'm sad to say that never happened because I really wanted to love this book.

Don't let my rating influence those who want to read this book. If you find the premise interesting then give it a shot. As I said before I can see plenty of people liking and loving this book. All I'm trying to say with my rating and this review is that the story wasn't bad, it just wasn't for me.

Lora says

I was in the mood for a werewolf story, and this one was number one on Barnes and Nobles list of "5 must-read werewolf novels." As B&N pointed out, most werewolf stories are formulaic, for example paranormal romances, but this one offers a new take - a man who has, over the course of time, learned to use his werewolf transformation for good. He uses his detective skills to find a target - dangerous criminals not yet identified by the police. When the moon is full, he uses the wolf's super-senses to track the target and satisfy the wolf's blood lust.

The author writes with both skill, imagination and street-smarts. He worked as an auxiliary policeman in New York City from 2003 to 2007, when he was shot stopping a gunman in Greenwich Village. Unfortunately, he never saw his book published. It was still in the editing process when he died.

If only someone else could write a sequel to the book and carry on his vision.

Ashok Banker says

Early in this novel, during the prologue, a character driving his car on a lonely road encounters a creature that we know is a werewolf though he doesn't. The beast leaps onto the hood of the car and then, the narrator tells us, crouched there glaring in at the driver "like he owed him money". That line made me laugh out loud. That's a reaction I never had from a typical werewolf novel and I've read a few. What makes this debut novel such a fun read is that unexpected mashup of wit and dismantlement of the cliché. I didn't know that the author was a volunteer auxiliary cop who died heroically in the line of duty just before this novel was published and I didn't buy it for that reason - there are a lot of dead authors with great books out there, frankly! (Bad joke, I know.) The point is Nicholas Pekearo managed to invest the typical cliché werewolf tale with an original voice and style and an interesting conceit to boot: the eponymous werewolf is a "Dexter" (my phrase, not the author's) who kills only bad guys. And it's a fun read.

Melissa says

Have you ever had to endure a guy at work or at a party that thinks he is superbly clever and charming, but is really the most cliché, sexist dumbwit in the room? This book is that guy.

It kept me reading because, while the plot points are completely unoriginal and entirely predictable, they're new to the werewolf myth. AND occasionally, this guy has a decent cadence and can actually - from time to time - write a clever metaphor. No matter what he thinks, though, he's no Raymond Chandler.

Chris says

I stumbled across this book while weeding our collection and was attracted to this book due to the tragic biography of its author. The "wolfman" lives in a small Tennessee town working as a cook. He's a wanderer and a werewolf from a curse that's been handed down through the centuries. He is a Vietnam veteran too. He's come to realize he can manage his need to kill by eliminating the bad people. So if this were a TV series it would be like Dexter meets Supernatural. It's written in a funny and shocking style. You want to have some empathy for the wolfman as he often tries to do the right thing but he can be a real jerk most of the time-even when he's trying to be a good guy. The ending is a little predictable but there's some good page turning suspense. It was poised as a launching pad for further adventures by this troubled character. It's a real shame we were denied his talents by a crazed gunman. This is one "series" someone should take up and resurrect.

Cory says

This book presents a bit of a conundrum to me. I really, really wanted to like it. The summary/teaser on the dustjacket outlined an excellent plot, and I really thought the main character sounded very interesting. Unfortunately, the best word I can come up with to describe the book is either of these: cliché or predictable. I don't want to be "that guy", but it was obvious to me about halfway through the book who the

serial killer was. On the plus side, I don't think the author was really going for a huge or unexpected twist at the end.. the hints were laid on pretty thick.

The focus, I think and hope, was supposed to be mostly on Marlowe (the main character and figure of tragedy) and his struggle to retain some form of control over himself and what resides inside him. It's a bummer the author died so soon (http://www.thevillager.com/villager_2...). The editor's preface talked about how Pekearo was planning on making a series of stories about Marlowe, and I really think it showed a lot of promise. I enjoyed his writing style, if not the plot layout and use of tired cliches. I could probably score this a 2 out of 5, but it held my interest throughout and that counts for something.

awesomatik.de says

Ich bin sehr sensibel, was den Mondkalender betrifft. Sobald der Vollmond, wie das blinde und faulige Auge einer Hexe aus dem düsteren Berliner Himmel in mein Schlafzimmer blickt, habe ich schlaflose Nächte. Dann fühlt es sich an als ob mein Blut brodeln würde und an Schlaf ist nicht mehr zu denken.

Vielleicht erklärt diese lunare Sensibilität auch meine Affinität für das Werwolf-Genre. Von Filmen wie *Teen Wolf*, *Dog Soldiers*, *Wolf*, *An american werewolf in London/Paris*, *Romasanta* usw. über Romane wie *The wolfen*, *The wolf's hour* oder *Sharp teeth* habe ich einiges aus dem Genre gesehen und gelesen.

Nun also *The Wolfman*, ein Debüt-Roman der posthum nach dem tragischen Tod des Autors veröffentlicht wurde.

Nicholas Pekearo wurde mit 28 Jahren als (unbewaffneter) NYPD-Hilfspolizist bei der Verfolgung eines Straftäters mit sechs Kugeln erschossen. Schade denn als Autor hätte er durchaus eine Zukunft haben können. Möge er auch bei Vollmond in Frieden Ruhen.

Und darum geht's:

Auf Vietnam-Veteran Marlowe Higgins lastet der Werwolf-Fluch. Immer bei Vollmond muss er jemanden töten. Jahrelang plagt ihn sein Gewissen, bis es ihm eines Tages gelingt, aus der Not eine Tugend zu machen. Von da an tötet die Bestie in ihm nur noch böse Menschen.

Als ein Serienkiller die Stadt terrorisiert, scheint seine nächste Beute klar zu sein. Doch dann kommt alles ganz anders....

The Wolfman ist ein echter Rock n' roll Werwolf. Der Protagonist flucht wie ein Kesselflicker und auch im restlichen Text wird an Schimpfwörtern nicht gespart.

Diese unangepasste Wildheit passt wunderbar zum Genre. Überhaupt kann Pekearo ganz vernünftig schreiben.

Leider will die Geschichte anfangs nicht so richtig in Gang kommen. Erst nach gut einem Drittel des Buches kristallisiert sich langsam eine Handlung heraus.

Dann macht *The Wolfman* aber richtig Spaß, da kann der Held noch so übellaunig sein. Von Bordell zur Barschlägerei kämpft und beißt sich Higgins durch die Seiten. Dabei sitzt ihm die Zeit im Nacken, denn stets muss ein ausreichend böses Opfer gefunden werden, bevor der nächste Vollmond aufgeht. So liest er sich täglich durch die Schlagzeilen sämtlicher Lokalzeitungen und horcht seinen Polizistenfreund Pearce über aktuelle Straftäter aus.

Eine tolle Grundidee also. Ein Werwolf-Detektiv, der Verbrecher vor sein eigenes blutiges Gericht zieht. Nebenbei bereichert Pekearo die Werwolf-Mythologie um ein paar interessante neue Eigenschaften. So übernimmt Higgins z.B. teilweise Charakterzüge und Erinnerungen von Menschen, die er getötet hat.

Fazit - Holy motherfucking shit - Der Rocker-Werwolf ist los!

Nicholas Pekearo bereichert das Werwolf-Universum um ein paar unterhaltsame Ideen. Mit pulsierender Schreibe lässt er einen sympathisch übellaunigen, alkoholsüchtigen, fluchenden Helden durch seinen Roman wüten.

The Wolfman ist eine verdammt wilde und blutige Werwolf-Geschichte, die leider einige Schwächen aufweist. Wahrscheinlich hat der plötzliche Tod des Autors dazu geführt hat, dass wir uns mit dieser unfertig wirkenden Version zufrieden geben müssen.

Mit kleineren Änderungen hätte *The Wolfman* das Potential zum echten Werwolf-Kultbuch gehabt.

Wertung knappe 3/5

awesomatik Kuriosum

Das Buch sollte man nicht mit dem Film *The Wolfman* von 1941 bzw. dem Remake von 2010 verwechseln. Letzteres war einer der teuersten Boxoffice-Flops aller Zeiten und bekam extrem schlechte Kritiken.

Ich fand ihn gar nicht mal schlecht. Schönes Creature-Design und gute Schauspieler. Hätte natürlich besser sein können aber dafür, dass die Dreharbeiten mehr als problematisch verlaufen sind, ist das Ergebnis durchaus akzeptabel.

[youtube=http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jN9v_7...]

Und hier noch ein aktueller Filmtipp aus der humoristischen Sparte. Wolfcop - he's like Dirty Harry, only hairier:[youtube=http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_P4C8...]

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Arni Vidar Bjorgvinsson says

As the editor tells us in his beginning note, Nicholas Pekearo didn't get to do much writing before his death. *The Wolfman* is his debut book and he had envisioned a series of books featuring the Vietnam Veteran Marlowe Higgins and his dark secret, but alas Nicholas was killed in the line of duty, working as an unarmed volunteer police officer in New York city.

This is, in fact, quite sad for many reasons.. but the main one that touches me (and you) personally is that he was one hell of a writer. This is really an awesome book, never minding that it's his first published one. It has crude language, hard characters and real funny moments in between, but ultimately it's a thriller/horror book so there's a nice amount of gore to enjoy as well.

I'll recommend this book to any thriller/horror enthusiasts out there, even though we know that there will be no more such books from Pekearo. Such a shame. :(

Amy says

This was actually a quite enjoyable book -- quick, breezy, several good turns of phrase and a few good zigs just when you think you've got it figured out where he's going with the whole werewolf thing.

Of course I initially purchased out of respect for the author -- Nicholas Pekearo found out from his agent that this book would be published, and then three days later he was killed in the line of duty as an NYPD

